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REPORT TO HUMANITARIANS

Number 34 — December, 1975

published quarterly by

EDITORS:

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Miss Emily F. Gleockler

Humane Information Services
Incorporated

A NON-PROFIT NATIONAL HUMANE SOCIETY
FOR THE PREVENTION OF ANIMAL SUFFERING

4495 Ninth Avenue North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33713

Dues and Contributions Tax Deductible

HIS and NAHL Fight Rodeo in St. Petersburg

Rodeos are bad, from two standpoints: (1) they involve cruelty to and suffering by animals; (2) they teach the droves of children who attend and participate, and who see snatches of rodeo performances on TV, that adults find it amusing, exciting and acceptable to inflict suffering on animals.

RODEO IS A MAJOR "SPORT"

According to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), "more than 3,000 commercial rodeos are held in the US every year." The American Humane Association (AHA) estimates "more than 2,000 performances held each year." By anybody's guess, it is a very large number.

The Rodeo Cowboys Association (RCA) reports over 13 million paid rodeo admissions in a year, compared with about the same number of paid collegiate football admissions and attendance at major league baseball parks of 16.6 million.

Whatever the actual figures, it is evident that rodeo no longer is just a traditional holdover from frontier days in the West. Rodeo is an important commercial entertainment enterprise found in states from coast to coast. It is big business.

Hundreds of thousands of animals are used in these performances, and in the training of performers, and thousands of animals are injured and killed annually.

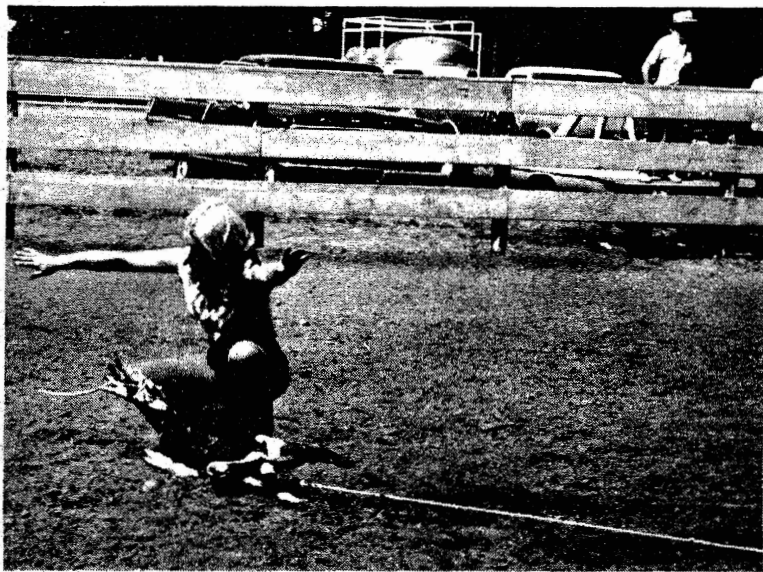
CHILDREN PARTICIPATE

For every kid who comes into contact with "humane education" of any kind there are thousands who attend rodeos or view them on TV. Not only have the commercial rodeo shows increased greatly in number in recent years; rodeo clubs have been formed as an extracurricular activity at many schools and colleges, with the participation of thousands of minors.

As evidence, we cite the existence of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and the National Little Britches Rodeo. The latter, started as a county fair event in 1952, by 1965 had 4,292 contestants representing 40 membership circuits in 13 states, and no doubt has extended its activities further since then. The contestants are aged eight through 13 in the junior division, and 14 through 17 in the senior group.

Each year, in some states, high schools compete in the various rodeo events. State champions then compete in the National High School Rodeo.

And shades of women's lib! Girls as well as boys are encouraged to and do participate. Some are trained on poor little goats (see photo). (We apologize for the generally poor quality of the photographs, which were selected to illustrate certain points, not for their clarity.)



Dee Moore signaling finish of goat tie at Canby Girls Summer Jackpot.

This training of youth to accept the infliction of animal suffering as "fun" and "sport" is the feature of rodeo to which Humane Information Services (HIS) particularly objects. How many of the child participants in amateur rodeo would you expect, when they are grown, to support humane objectives? And even attendance at adult rodeos inures the children to cruelty and violence. Yet, rodeo promoters claim that child participants enjoy a "clean, healthy sport that keeps them

paganda, and discontinuance of the prods probably adds to rather than subtracts from the cruelty of rodeo.

(2) *The bucking strap.* Pretty much the same considerations apply to the bucking strap, about which much has been said by humane groups. These straps go around the body of the horse or bull immediately in front of the hips and constrict the lower abdomen, where internal organs are not protected by the rib cage. Just before the chute gate is opened the strap is pulled tight. The HSUS says this applies "pressure to sensitive lumbar nerves, to the inguinal canal area, and, occasionally, on the prepuce of the male animal."

The RCA claims that to pull the flank strap as tight as humanitarians claim it is would immobilize the animal, and veterinarians back up this claim. The latter say that they sometimes have to use this method of "throwing" a horse to the ground when they must treat it in a prone position. Probably the flank strap usually is not pulled tight enough to cause real injury to the animal. It makes the horse or bull buck because it is uncomfortable and irritating, a psychological stress element which the animal tries to get rid of by its contortions. This may be called "torment" by a humanitarian, but others may consider the word overdrawn.

It is one thing to write a humane society brochure on rodeo, or write a letter to the editor, using such terms and descriptions, which are accepted by humanitarians who want to believe anything disparaging about rodeo, but quite another to stand up before a legislative body and successfully make such claims with a Rodeo Cowboys Association representative or veterinarian present, ready to give what sounds like an authoritative rebuttal. For example, the RCA booklet entitled *Facts! Professional Rodeo is Humane to its Animals* quotes Patrick Parkes, of the HSUS, as follows: "The buck is put into broncs and bulls by yanking to excruciating tightness, a strap that cuts into the scrotum." The Association replies by quoting an SPCA official: "They (HSUS) should take a lesson in anatomy." Perhaps that official should look at the accompanying photo of a bucking bull. Not the scrotum, certainly, but how about the prepuce?

The undoubted fact, which the rodeo people cannot deny, is that the animal bucks because it is under stress from being in the narrow chute, the preliminary preparation (Doc saw one horse which

(See RODEOS, page 2, column 1)

Can Anything be Done to Stop Rodeos?

off the streets."

So far as the total number of animals used and the amount of suffering inflicted in rodeo is concerned, it does not stack up as a major humane problem compared with the production, marketing and slaughter of animals for meat, or trapping, or the use of animals in laboratories, or the treatment accorded dogs and cats. But it is a major humane problem from the standpoint of interfering with progress in promoting the humane ethic.

CRUELITIES IN RODEO

Humanitarians for years have been bombarded with literature, including photographs, about the cruelties of rodeo. In deference to the sensibilities of our more tenderhearted readers who are sickened by gruesome pictures and too-graphic descriptions of cruelty to animals, we refrain from showing any of the photographs in our files of severe rodeo abuses.

Some of the propaganda against rodeo has been exaggerated, and used by the defenders of rodeo to counteract the claims of its critics. It is always best to lean over backwards to avoid claims that can be proved to be false or exaggerated.

(1) *The use of cattle prods.* When the animal is touched, it receives an electric shock. Rules of the RCA call for application only to the hip or shoulder areas, but some observers claim that it is frequently applied to the rectum for greater effect.

Properly used, the cattle prod is said to be the most humane way of moving livestock. The amperage of the electric shock is low, preventing burns. It is claimed that a person running a comb through the hair produces five times the amount of static electricity resulting from application of the cattle prod, although the amperage is absent. Altogether, it appears that the use of these prods or "hotshots" does not cause injury or severe stress. We have seen it used many times in driving cattle in packinghouse stock pens, and the rodeo people ask why humanitarians object to its use in rodeo but not in handling livestock generally.

Some rodeo promoters, in an effort to placate humanitarians, have eliminated the use of the electric prod altogether, at least during the performances. This was true of a rodeo recently held in St. Petersburg, Florida, which is alluded to later in this article. As a substitute for the prod, in moving calves and small steers from the pen to the chute, the handlers violently twisted the tails of the animals, and again when the chute gate was opened to make them bolt into the arena.

Taking everything into account, HIS believes that humanitarians would be well-advised to soft-pedal the use of electric prods as one of the cruelties of rodeo. The same

December, 1975

PORT TO HUMANITARIANS No. 34

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A black and white photograph capturing a moment of intense action during a rodeo. A cowboy, dressed in traditional Western attire including a wide-brimmed hat and chaps, is mounted on a dark-colored horse. The horse is in the middle of a powerful buck, its body arched and its hind legs kicked high into the air. The cowboy is leaning forward, holding onto the horse's mane. In the background, a crowd of spectators, many wearing hats, stands behind a rope barrier, watching the event. The scene is set outdoors on a dirt arena.

kicked violently and went down in the chute merely in response to placing the bucking strap gently on its flanks before tightening), the sudden pull on the strap, the gate being opened, and the rider's spurs on its shoulders. It is the cruel psychological combination of these conditions which constitutes the real harm to the animal, not necessarily physical pain. That is what may be most effectively pointed out by humanitarians in condemning bucking bronc and bull riding.

(3) Roping events. This is where the real, undeniable cruelties of the rodeo are found. This is where rodeo opponents should come down hardest.

Roping events, which include calf roping, steer roping and team roping, are full of cruelty and suffering. The worst of these is called "steer busting," in which the cowboy first lassos the running steer around the horns or neck, then loops the lariat around the rear end of the steer. As the horse and rider gallop off at an angle, a tremendous pressure is exerted on the rope, twisting the steer's head and body to the rear and throwing him

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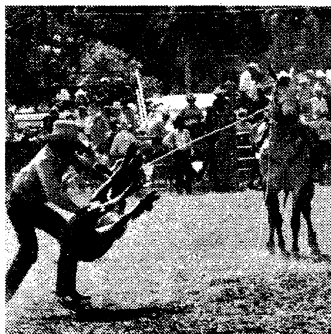
☐ I wish to continue my membership and enclose \$_____.

☐ I wish to make a contribution and enclose \$_____.

Because steer busting is so cruel, and makes such a good talking point against rodeo, many humanitarians who protest rodeos in Eastern and other states where steer busting is not encountered use it as a descriptive example in writing letters to the editor or speaking before legislative committees or other groups. This plays right into the hands of the rodeo promoters, who smile deprecatingly and say no steer or calf busting is permitted in their events, indicating that the protesters do not know what they are talking about. One instance of this kind, and the public or legislators may be led to believe that nothing else the protesters say is credible.

Team roping is another roping event that is obviously cruel. The steer is roped by two cowboys, one of whom throws the lariat noose over a hind leg and the other over the neck. The animal may be stretched so much that muscles and ligaments are torn. This event is most popular in California, Arizona and Nevada, where, according to the RCA, bankers, doctors and dentists are among the ardent competitors. Again, before citing team roping as an objectionable feature, be sure that it is a part of the rodeo or rodeos being protested. Unfortunately, many of the rodeo descriptive leaflets put out by humane societies have failed to make these distinctions, creating a credibility gap that is hard to overcome when proponents and opponents face each other before a legislative group.

Calf roping is a feature of rodeo found everywhere. A calf weighing several hundred pounds is propelled out of the chute at a speed claimed to be in the neighborhood of 25 miles per hour or more, depending partly upon the means used to start him through the gate. One end of a lariat about 25 feet long is tied to the saddle horn; the other end is the lariat's loop. The cowboy throws the latter over the calf's head and around its neck. As the rope becomes taut, the running calf frequently but not always is jerked into the air and off its feet (see photo). The trained horse rates the speed of the calf, stops on cue, then backs up fast to keep the rope taut. If the calf struggles halfway to its feet and/or moves toward the horse, the latter is trained to back up, rapidly tightening the rope and sometimes dragging the poor calf by the neck over the arena floor.. Meanwhile, the cowboy has dismounted and runs to the calf. If the latter is still standing, he throws it to the ground violently and crosses any three legs, which are tied with a short rope that had been tucked in the rider's belt.



How anyone can watch this procedure and call it humane is beyond our understanding. The calf is frightened, abused to make it bolt from the chute, jerked painfully by the neck, slammed to the ground, and tied in an unnatural position. The physical and psychological stress is obvious. Yet, because the calf usually does not die or later give evidence of physical injury, veterinarians will and do testify that it is not "hurt."

The Rodeo Cowboys Association is a non-profit organization of professional rodeo contestants, with a membership of more

Although the exact figure is not known, probably some 600 of the 2,000 to 3,000 rodeos held each year are "approved" or supervised by the RCA, representing perhaps a quarter of the total number of performances.

Humanitarians should be fair, both for its own sake and because it is the most effective way to combat rodeo. It must be admitted that these activities by the RCA have helped to eliminate or modify some of the worst features of rodeo. The mere fact that the Rodeo Cowboys Association found a need for such supervision is evidence that cruelties and suffering have featured rodeos in the United States.

The rodeo defenders claim that both the stock contractors and cowboy participants love animals and would never intentionally abuse them. This love of animals, they say, not the meager financial rewards, is what keeps them in the business.

If they love animals so much, why is this one of the rules of the RCA: "No animal shall be beaten, mutilated, or cruelly prodded." If there is little or no physical injury to the animals, as claimed, why is the following rule necessary: "A conveyance must be available to remove animals from arena in case of injury." Or, Rule No. 12: "Clowns are not to abuse stock in any fashion." And finally, Rule No. 4: "The placing of fingers in eyes, lips or nose of steers while wrestling same is forbidden." Nice, kind, animal-loving participants!

The Cowboys Association admits that animals are injured. For example, in its booklet *Facts! Professional Rodeo is Humane to its Animals*: "Animals are injured occasionally....But these injuries are accidental and certainly not deliberate. The latter, we think, is the proper definition of cruelty." In other words, if most of the animals used in rodeo were painfully injured, but not intentionally, no cruelty would be involved! What reasoning!



This is a "conveyance," which the RCA rules require for removing injured animals from the arena. Well, it's better than hauling them off at the end of a rope! (Photograph courtesy of The Humane Society of the United States.)

The RCA-approved rodeos undoubtedly represent a substantial improvement in the treatment of rodeo animals. It is harmful rather than helpful to claim otherwise, as many humanitarians do in the heat of battle.

The Cowboys Association works closely with the American Humane Association, which more or less informally arranges for officials or employees of its local member societies to "supervise" the rodeos. To our knowledge, this "supervision" consists mostly of inspecting the rodeo stock to detect any obvious injuries or disease which would disqualify them from being used in the performances under RCA rules, and sometimes to see that the rules of the RCA applying to execution of the various rodeo events such as bronc riding are

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN REDUCTION AND REPLACEMENT OF LABORATORY ANIMALS

Symposium Gives Scientists' Views About Reducing Use of Laboratory Animals

The Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources of the Assembly of Life Sciences of the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences (yes, that's a mouthful, representing the cream of biomedical scientific institutions in this country), has made a valiant effort to demonstrate to humanitarians that (1) animal models are necessary in biomedical research and testing, and (2) that they already are making all possible efforts to improve experimental design and encourage the use of non-animal experimental models to reduce as far as possible the use of animals in experiments and tests.

In *Report to Humanitarians* No. 33 (June, 1975) we quoted the claims made by the Edgewood Arsenal to this effect. The occasion reported in this issue was in effect a documentation of these claims for the biomedical laboratories as a whole.

This effort took the form of a Symposium on The Future of Animals, Cells, Models and Systems in Research, Development, Education, and Testing, held in the magnificent auditorium of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC, on October 22 and 23, 1975. Dr. Frederick L. Thomsen, president of Humane Information Services, attended.

ORGANIZING GROUP

The organizing group for this symposium consisted of seven scientists and a lone humanitarian, Mrs. Christine G. Stevens, president of the Animal Welfare Institute. They seem to have made a real effort to obtain speakers of genuine professional competence to discuss the various subjects covered by the symposium. The scientific quality of the papers read was generally excellent. The speakers knew what they were talking about.

WE TRY TO OPEN THE GIFT HORSE'S MOUTH!

It is not polite to look a gift horse in the mouth. We hope the scientists responsible for presenting this gift to humanitarians will not object to a rather frank but objective description of what we observed when we opened the horse's mouth.

The trouble with the symposium, from the viewpoint of humanitarians present, was that the speakers were not talking directly about the problems which the occasion presumably was organized to cover. Quite obviously it was not set up as a means of sifting through the facts, pro and con, and reaching some useful and new conclusions about the future possibilities of techniques for reducing the number of animals used in biomedical laboratories. Rather, the whole event seemed to be viewed by the organizers as a means of answering the humanitarians who have been accusing the scientific community of dragging its feet in the development and use of these new techniques. It was a defense of "animal models," and an attempt to convince both humanitarians and the increasing number of scientists who have been questioning the quality of biomedical research and the appropriateness of the tests used in the development and evaluation of new chemicals and drugs.

This was evident in the fact that practically every scientist-speaker at some time in his discussion went out of his way to claim that nothing he had said should be taken to mean that there was no longer a need to use animals. It was evident in the fact that about half of the papers on methods of research dealt with animal models, and half with alternatives. It was evident in the lack of any vigorous presentation of the claims of those who believe that alternatives could and should be much more widely used. It was evident in the brief time allotted for discussion of the several excellent scientific papers, which through audience questioning of the speakers might have brought the issues down to earth to be faced frankly and openly.

REDUCTION OF NUMBERS OF ANIMALS USED

A good example of several of these points was to be found in the unusually fine paper read by Dr. Carol Newton, chairman, Department of Biomathematics, University of California School of Medicine, at Los Angeles, on the subject of "Computer Simulation." Dr. Newton very

remarkably concise form much of the subject matter frequently designated by humanitarians as "reduction," with only partial attention to "replacement" as represented by the complete substitution of mathematical models for animal models.

If all biomedical research and testing laboratories were as well versed in these subjects as the Department headed by Dr. Newton, there undoubtedly would be a remarkable improvement in both the quality of research and the more appropriate and reduced use of animals. She showed what can be done, but did not discuss the extent to which it is being done in laboratories throughout the country.

Dr. Thomsen tried to rectify this omission by questioning Dr. Newton, who was responsive and frank. He asked her to give the best answer she could to three questions, with the understanding that they would be only informed guesses representing a hasty personal judgment.

Question 1. How many biomedical research departments in universities have established biomathematics sections or departments similar to hers? **Answer:** A few, some of which she named. The total, it would appear, at best does not exceed a dozen, out of the hundreds of institutions performing biomedical research. Dr. Newton did not indicate whether all of the biomedical research in the U. of C. School of Medicine was done with the same degree of care in experimental design as the projects she reported, i.e., the extent to which the influence of her Department has spread throughout the biomedical research staff at the University.

Thomsen: It would appear that your paper, then, represents not a statement of what is being done now within laboratories generally, but merely indicates what could and should be done in the future. We humanitarians would like to know something about how long it may take the others to catch up.

Question 2. What proportion of the in-house or protocol committees set up in the various biomedical laboratories to review research proposals before approval have on the committee a representative of the department of biomathematics or, lacking such a department in the institution, a statistician from the school of business administration or department of statistics in arts and sciences, qualified to evaluate experimental design and statistical requirements of the experiment? **Answer:** I cannot say. But many do not.

Thomsen: In other words, most of the experiments are planned and conducted without expert evaluation or guidance with regard to these highly important features? **Answer:** No direct answer, but Dr. Newton's general demeanor indicated to Dr. Thomsen agreement with his statement.

Question 3. Dr. Newton, you must read at least some of the biomedical journals giving the results of research. As a rough indication, in what percentage of the research projects reported in those journals would you say the articles give indication that the modern methods you advocate are being used now? **Answer:** It depends on the journal you read. Some of them are notorious for accepting articles representing poor quality research. Others do not. But I can't give a percentage figure.

Thomsen: I appreciate the difficulty you have in arriving at any such estimates, and the reasons for your reluc-

thing you have said here today that you probably would agree that the average quality of biomedical research in all of the laboratories combined, from a statistical and mathematical standpoint, is quite low. Very evidently methods of improved experimental design which could greatly improve the quality of research, and at the same time greatly reduce the use of animals, are not now being used in many or most biological research laboratories. It would appear that the advocates of "reduction" and "replacement" among antivivisectionists and humanitarians, who often are called "fanatics" and "kooks" by scientists, have a very real point to make.

The foregoing free, taken-from-memory version of Dr. Newton's address and answers to Dr. Thomsen's questions certainly does nothing to support the frequently-expressed contention of spokesmen for the biomedical researchers that nearly everything possible already is being done to take advantage of mathematical models and other statistical techniques, plus technical aids like the computer, to improve experimental design, increase the usefulness of the results, and decrease the numbers of animals used.

When the papers by Dr. Newton and others become available (probably sometime after April, 1976), and space is available in *Report to Humanitarians*, we will publish in future issues those parts of the presentations which are not too technical for understanding by lay humanitarians, together with our comments on them.

REDUCTION MORE IMPORTANT THAN REPLACEMENT

From the standpoint of decreasing the numbers of animals used in biomedical laboratories, Humane Information Services for years has tried to point out to humanitarians that "reduction" has more possibilities, at least in the immediate future, than complete "replacement" of laboratory animals by other models such as cells, tissue and organ cultures, and computer models. This conclusion does not "set well" with antivivisectionists and humanitarians who have as their immediate goal the complete elimination of animals from the biomedical laboratories. By refusing to recognize the facts, and continuing to place nearly all their emphasis on replacement, these humanitarians are overlooking what is by far the most vulnerable aspect of animal use in biomedical research. It would not be difficult to find some eminent researchers who are cognizant of and disgusted with the poor quality of much that passes as research in animal-using laboratories, who would support an objective, reasonable campaign to eliminate this useless waste of money, labor and time, not to mention the millions of animals that are sacrificed annually in conducting such trashy "research."

The real difficulty is that humanitarian critics of the laboratories are not trained in research methods, and do not wish to follow rational and objective approaches to the problem. We badly need not only to insist that biomedical researchers be trained in modern research methodology, but also that humanitarian critics of the laboratories learn enough about the issues involved to make their criticisms and demands reasonable and pertinent to actual conditions existing in the laboratories.

Humane Information Services has a number of plans for specific actions designed to attain our objectives in line with the foregoing analysis, but they cannot be implemented so long as antivivisectionists and humanitarians are deluded into believing in some simple, complete and instantaneous solution of the laboratory animal problem.

MATHEMATICAL MODELS AND COMPUTERS

One of the "replacement" methods frequently cited by antivivisectionists is the substitution of mathematical models and computers for animal models. The impression sometimes is given that you just walk up to the computer, punch some keys, and, lo and behold, the answer clatters out on the automatic typewriter.

RODEOS — FROM PAGE 2

The AHA has been severely criticized by the HSUS and other humane societies that are adamantly against rodeos in any form. "How can you supervise cruelty?" they ask. Our own observations lead us to agree that this so-called supervision is not of much use over and above that provided by the Rodeo Cowboys Association. Any additional good that comes from it, in our view, is far more than outweighed by the use which has been made by the RCA of this implied endorsement of rodeos by the AHA. The latter's "supervision" has been used repeatedly by the rodeo promoters in defending rodeo and counteracting efforts of other humane groups to end rodeo altogether.

Nevertheless, humanitarians who would be fair must admit that efforts to abolish rodeo over many years have gotten practically nowhere; and if it is true that rodeo will continue as a national "sport," it might be better to accept half (or even a tenth) of a loaf rather than none, by working with the RCA to improve rodeo conditions. It is a matter of judgment, and Humane Information Services disagrees with the AHA. But that does not justify accusations that the AHA participates in this supervision because it is venal, corrupt, or contemptuous of animal suffering. Undoubtedly many humane individuals and societies can and do agree with the AHA that supervision is better than nothing.

VETERINARIANS APPROVE RODEO

Among other important supporters of rodeo are the veterinarians. The Rodeo Cowboys Association booklet defending rodeo, previously cited, offers statements in full support of rodeo from four prominent veterinarians. We doubt if it would be possible to obtain letters disapproving rodeo from one percent of the veterinarians in the United States.

PAST ATTEMPTS TO STOP RODEO

Sometimes we wonder if humane societies that have published so much literature against rodeo really have expected to accomplish anything significant, or are merely using this rather spectacular example of cruelty to animals as a means of obtaining new members, contributions and bequests. No doubt the response has been great.

These thoughts derive from a frank acknowledgment of the great odds arrayed against the opponents of rodeo: the implied endorsement of the AHA and many of its member organizations; the clean bill of health given rodeo by most veterinarians; the artful and effective public relations work of the Rodeo Cowboys Association, backed by what seems to be a lot more money than humane societies can spend on this project; the support of civic, church and charitable organizations that sponsor rodeos and benefit financially; the lack of response to requests for help from churches and other organizations supposed to stand for morality; the active support of tourist interests, as in Florida and some Western states, where rodeo is believed to bring in cash-laden visitors and furnish a form of entertainment for those who would come anyway; the livestock and farm interests generally; the schools and physical education people who promote amateur rodeo; the commercial interests that benefit, such as exhibition halls, arenas, stadia, county and state fair managements, concession owners, local merchants, and chambers of commerce; the numerous proponents of the "pioneer spirit" and admirers of the "Old West" and frontier days found among the general population; and, last but by no means least, the politicians and legislators in whose hands action finally rests, and who are very much aware of these elements supporting rodeo, regardless of their own personal opinions of it.

In view of all this support for rodeo, humane organizations must wear blinders to see any real chance of eliminating rodeo in the foreseeable future. This conclusion is supported by the record.

CONGRESSIONAL INACTION

merce any animal which is used or intended to be used for the purpose of steer busting, calf roping or steer wrestling, or to be subjected to the various devices such as the bucking strap, flank strap or electric prod. In addition, this proposed Rodeo Stock Protection Act would have made unlawful the buying or transporting in interstate commerce of these devices when the "buyer or transportee had reasonable cause to believe they would be used in the course of a public performance."

Aside from the obvious impossibility of getting such a bill through the House Committee on Agriculture, much less the entire House and Senate, it would have encountered insuperable obstacles to successful enforcement. Cattle prods, for example, are used throughout the livestock-handling industry. How could you pick out any one prod in transit and claim it was intended for use in a rodeo performance? The proposed act was full of such loopholes. Stock contractors supplying the rodeos with animals would merely have been forced to go intrastate. The effect of such an act would be minimal. Any possible approach to the problem via the route of federal legislation would appear to be ineffectual. Any humane society proposing such an approach to the problem must be suspect of trying to gain credit from potential contributors more than helping the animals.

STATE AND LOCAL ACTION

The only partially successful action to deal with rodeo was through an act passed by the Ohio legislature in 1965, and a few instances in which humanitarians have been able to obtain local (county or city) action.

The Ohio act essentially consisted of a ban on the use of bucking straps and electric prods. It was believed that since bucking broncs and bulls are the *piece de resistance* of rodeo, this would so reduce the entertainment values of the "sport" that rodeo promoters would give up.

To our regret, we have not followed developments in Ohio since this act was passed to give an accurate account. We do know that rodeo and affiliated interests later ganged up on the legislature, and we understand were successful in having the act repealed or so modified as to be ineffective. If any of our Ohio members has information to the contrary, please write us.

The City of Baltimore, Maryland, passed a similar ordinance. Our files, still not in good shape after our move to a new office, again refuse to regurgitate the details on what has happened in that City meanwhile.

Pinellas County, Florida, home base of both HIS and the National Association for Humane Legislation (NAHL), formerly held a rodeo annually in conjunction with the County fair. In 1966, all of the humane societies in the County, as well as individual humanitarians, converged on the County Commission with such determination and force that the Commission banned the rodeos (see accompanying clipping). This,

to our knowledge, is the only instance in which the rodeo was banned completely. Perhaps we have overlooked some other case. If so, will some member please enlighten us.

The Florida Federation of Humane Societies from time to time, as recently as this year, was asked to campaign for an anti-rodeo law, but for various reasons has taken no action. Many of the local societies in Florida that compose the Federation are affiliated with the AHA, which advocates supervision of rodeos. Some of these local societies participate in such supervision.

NOW RODEO HAS ENTERED
ST. PETERSBURG

Much to the chagrin of HIS and of NAHL (our sister society that handles all legislative activities that otherwise might be the responsibility of HIS), the City of St. Petersburg's Bayfront Center, a large auditorium, scheduled a rodeo for October, 1975. According to press reports back in 1966, action at that time by the Pinellas County Commission applied to the entire County; but when we recently had occasion to examine the minutes of the Commission meeting, we saw that the ban appears to have applied only to the fair. This, in our belief, was not the intent of the Commission. In any event, it did not stop St. Petersburg. Humanitarians had been too smug in thinking that the County Commission's 1966 action protected us from such an event.

Immediately NAHL sprang into action, first gathering the facts about this attempt to introduce rodeo into St. Petersburg, then putting on a publicity and letters-to-the-editor campaign against the rodeo, and then engaging in a series of meetings with the City Council and members of the City Manager's staff.

The newspapers and television stations responded nobly, as indicated by the attached clippings representing a few instances of this kind. But few individual humanitarians supported NAHL by writing letters to the editor and attending meetings. The unanimous cooperative endeavor which had won in 1966 was lacking. The SPCA gave no support except a weak letter of disapproval, after receiving considerable prodding. Practically nobody attended the key meetings except directors and officers of NAHL and the former head of the SPCA Volunteers. One might have thought that St. Petersburg was located in Wyoming! Despite all of the newspaper and TV publicity, not a single HIS or NAHL member other than directors and officers attended these key meetings, although we have quite a few in the City. No doubt the events moved so rapidly that they were over before these members knew what was going on. And NAHL had insufficient time between notification of a meeting and its occurrence to mail notices to its members.

At the first regular meeting of the City Council after the rodeo was announced, Dr. Thomsen, president of NAHL, requested permission to appear, and, after waiting from eight in the morning to about six in the evening, told the Council about the inhumaneness of rodeo and the conditions which make it particularly unsuited to St. Petersburg, and reminded them of the action by the County Commission in 1966 (see accompanying clipping). No member of Council gave any evidence of real concern over the animal suffering involved, and the City's legal counsel said that the rodeo contract already had been signed and could not be abrogated. One Councilman remarked that animals were placed on earth for man's benefit, and that rodeo is no more brutal than many other sports such as ice hockey, which the City allows in the Bayfront Center. All these nonsensical remarks were adequately rebutted, both by Dr. Thomsen and in letters to the editor which appeared later.

Some members of Council pointed out that in any event they could take no action until "the other side" had been heard from, particularly veterinarians. Council thereupon voted to ask the City Manager to obtain testimony from all sides, including veterinarians, and report back its conclusions.

St. Petersburg Times

Wednesday, May 18, 1966

'INHUMANE, A LOSER'

Rodeos Get
Ridden Out
Of Pinellas

More Commission News, Page 8-B

By RON FEDDERSON
Times Bureau

CLEARWATER — The Pinellas County Commission

RODEOS—FROM PAGE 4

Thomsen and Arthur B. Brainerd, representing NAHL; Miss Emily F. Gleockler, representing HIS; Dr. Harold F. Albers, president of the Pinellas County Veterinarians Association; Matt C. Dryden, the rodeo stock contractor; Duwayne Martin, executive manager of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association; and representatives of the City's auditorium management. Nobody representing the SPCA of St. Petersburg made his or her presence known, although we understand that a small group from that Society was in the audience. The presence of the executive head of the Cowboys Association shows how much of a "stink" had been raised by NAHL, and how seriously the protest was taken by the rodeo people.

NAHL was able to show an excellent color motion picture of the rodeo taken at the County fair in 1966 just before rodeos were abolished. This film is the property of the SPCA of St. Petersburg, which loaned it to NAHL. Rodeo pamphlets of the HSUS were distributed, and much of the time of the meeting was taken up by a debate between Doc and the Cowboys Association representative about some of the claims made in those pamphlets.

Things seemed to be going very well for the humanitarians' viewpoint until Dr. Albers, the veterinarian, was asked to comment. He said he was quite familiar with rodeo, and did not find it inhumane (we had previously searched for a local veterinarian who would go to the meeting with us to rebut this professional testimony favorable to rodeo, but could find not one willing to say that it is inhumane).

Then the Bayfront Center official played his trump cards: two letters, one from an official of the humane society in Jacksonville, Florida, and another from a city in Tennessee stating that they had inspected the rodeos held in their cities by the same stock company, and found nothing to criticize about treatment of the animals. (NAHL immediately phoned one of its members, a long-time director of the Jacksonville Humane Society, and she was able to get them to write a letter saying that they do not endorse rodeos; but the damage already had been done.)

These two letters, together with the repeated references to the AHA implied en-

dorsement of RCA rodeo (despite quotations expressing disapproval of rodeo by the executive director of AHA offered by Dr. Thomsen) made the opponents present at the meeting appear to be animal radicals refusing to recognize "facts." In any event, the City Manager later reported to Council, at a meeting attended by Emily (Doc was in Washington, DC), that with some "safeguards" the rodeo be continued in future years.

The rodeo promoter invited Dr. Thomsen, Mr. Brainerd and anyone from the SPCA to attend the October rodeo with free access to the pens and chutes. Doc and Burt attended and stayed through the performance, down in horse and bull pens and chutes, above the calf-roping pens and chutes, and even in the arena, from whence we were ejected by a uniformed policeman who seemed quite alarmed over possible injury to us, which could bring a damage suit against the City! Photographs we took did not turn out well, however. This experience enabled us to gain specific information, such as about the tail twisting, which negated claims by the promoters.

However, we are not veterinarians! The veterinarian for the SPCA of St. Petersburg also attended. The St. Petersburg Times gave prominent display to the following: "After inspecting the rodeo animals, Dr. James Cochran, SPCA veterinarian, said everything looked 'peachy dandy,' thus erasing the last cloud that hung over the city's first indoor rodeo. The SPCA initially had declared that rodeos are 'inhumane,' and had vowed to fight future such events in St. Petersburg."

NAHL sent a letter to City Council detailing its own findings of inhumane conditions at the rodeo, including a horse twice "down" in a chute, the tail twisting, and treatment of the steers in bulldogging. The letter said that these conditions confirmed NAHL's previous statements about the inhumaneness of rodeo, and that the society had not modified its opposition to the rodeo, despite the fact that the rodeo management obviously had done everything possible to make the performance "mild."

But the City Council, obviously concerned more about revenue for its financially-ailing Bayfront Center than about the humane treatment of animals, finally decided to accept the Manager's recommen-

dations and not forbid future rodeos at the Bayfront. A later effort by some individual humanitarians to change this action did not succeed.

NAHL's protest generated far more publicity in the newspapers and on TV than we had expected, and it is hard to see how anything more could have been done to stop rodeos in St. Petersburg under the circumstances, except large turnouts by humanitarians at the Council meetings, which did not occur.

THE FUTURE OF RODEO

This is just one of many situations that point to the probability that under present conditions it is a waste of time that could be spent to much better advantage on other humane problems to try to stop rodeo in the United States.

Leaflets showing the cruelties of rodeo may bring new members and contributions to humane societies that publish them, but will not get anywhere.

The only actions that could prove successful in accomplishing this objective are:

(1) *Persuade the American Humane Association (and, through them, its affiliated local societies) to abandon its present policy on rodeos and join the other national humane societies in vigorously opposing them; or, be persuaded by the AHA to accept its policy, and join it in persuading the several cowboy associations to inaugurate much stricter rules governing rodeo, and join a cooperative effort by all of these agencies to bring real reform to rodeo throughout the industry.*

(2) *Institute a concerted and cooperative effort to enlist the support of the American Veterinary Medical Association in combatting the worst evils of rodeo, and to cooperate with humane societies in other important areas such as elimination of the use of succinylcholine chloride, the providing of less costly spaying and neutering services, and more effective pet animal control programs.*

But such efforts will not get to first base so long as humane societies and professional organizations insist on doing everything on their own, seeking sole credit for any accomplishments, fighting rather than cooperating with each other, and being more concerned with their own welfare than with the welfare of animals.

ST. PETERSBURG TIMES ■ FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1975 3B

Cancel 'cruel' rodeo, city is urged

city council

By MARGARET LEONARD
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

In an appeal to the St. Petersburg City Council to stop a rodeo scheduled for the Bayfront Center next month, Dr. Frederick L. Thomsen, president of the National Association for Humane Legislation, said the exhibitions depend on cruelty to make a show.

"It's all poppycock that they are wild, vicious bucking animals," Thomsen told the council. "The horses buck only because of a very painful strap . . . that puts pressure on the most tender parts of the animal's anatomy."

The council, informed by Bayfront Manager Al Leggat that a contract for the show has been signed, referred the matter to the city administration to find out from veterinarians and other neutral experts whether rodeos do impose cruelty on animals.

COUNCIL MEMBERS appeared unwilling to risk a lawsuit by prohibiting use of the city-owned center for the scheduled rodeo, but there was some interest in possible legislation affecting future rodeos.

Thomsen described two rodeo practices that he said are "cruel and inhumane," — the use of a "bucking strap" and calf roping.

He said the bucking strap is a two-inch-wide leather strap that goes from the front of the hind legs of the animal around the lower part of his abdomen. He said the strap is pulled tight by a man bracing his feet, "and that is cruel."

THE PURPOSE, Thomsen said, is to make the horses buck.

"As soon as the strap is released, the horse stops bucking," he said. He told the council that officers of humane associations have offered to ride any animals in a rodeo without the strap to prove that they do not normally buck.

The other practice he protested was calf roping, in which he said a calf is "propelled out of a chute, sometimes with an electric prod to the rectum . . . at 27 miles per hour."

"You know what happens to a car (on impact) at that speed," Thomsen said.

WHILE THE calf is moving, Thomsen related, a lariat is thrown around his neck and tightened, jerking him into the air and slamming him onto the ground. In the struggle to get up, the calf is tied with a rope.

Councilman Harry McCormick told Thomsen that "you're no judge of how much pain a little strap around his belly is going to give him."

"There's a lot of sports far more dangerous to the human being, and a human being is far more important than an animal," McCormick said. "Ice hockey and football . . . are brutal . . . and I don't hear these people protesting (those sports)."

Mayor Schuh pointed out that the calf and the horse don't have any choice about participating in the rodeo while humans play voluntarily.

Furthermore, Thomsen said, animals have nothing to gain from rodeos as humans do from sports.

The administration's report on whether rodeos are cruel is due Oct. 16.

6B ST. PETERSBURG TIMES ■ WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1975

city council

Value of rodeo as family entertainment debated

By JILL MAUNDER
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

A rodeo is "cruel," "inhuman" and "violent" and consequently one should not be held at Bayfront Center next week, humane association representatives said Wednesday.

A rodeo is "good, clean entertainment for the whole family" and St. Petersburg should be no exception, rodeo spokesmen said.

THE TWO sides debated before Public Works Administrator Gene E.

tors to advise councilmen as to the suitability of a rodeo for the city-owned Bayfront Center.

But the efforts were futile as far as the Oct. 9, 10 and 11 rodeo is concerned, Jordan said. Contracts already have been signed. The debate will help determine if future rodeos may be held, he said.

Dr. Frederick L. Thomsen, president of the National Association for Humane Legislation, and Emily Gleockler, of the Humane Information

"IF ANYONE THINKS a horse enjoys that flank strap, let me pull their belt as tight as I can get it," Thomsen said.

He told rodeo promoters they "made a wrong move coming here" because St. Petersburg is "the headquarters of humanitarians in the United States."

"The only reason for the spectacle of the rodeo is that the animals are treated violently," Thomsen said.

Mrs. Gleockler said rodeos "ex-

soring the rodeo, should find a "more fitting" family event, Mrs. Gleockler said.

THE TWO SAID it also could hurt children to see such violence.

Matt Dryden, owner of the Circle B. Rodeo Co. in Marianna, said rodeos are "good clean entertainment for the whole family."

Dryden said Florida has 650 high-school rodeo association members and that rodeo work keeps youths "off the streets."

Of treatment of animals, Dryden said, "These animals are athletes in themselves." They work "10 minutes out of the year" he said.

"They're given the best of care," Dryden said. "They're given the best of feed. I take pride in my livestock."

HE SAID HE has never refused any humane organizations access "I

er of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, which sanctions rodeos including Dryden's told the rodeo opponents to come see the Bayfront event "behind the scenes" to inspect treatment of animals.

"The rodeo business is not as bad as other people intend it to be," Martin said. "Until I spent the time and got the facts, I would feel that I couldn't recommend or condemn."

HIS ASSOCIATION has penalties for cowboys who abuse animals and can take civil action against them, he said. This year it is doing a "hit-and-miss" check on all injuries and plans next year to start complete investigations on injuries, Martin said.

It also is waiting for the results of University of California tests that will determine if calf-roping hurts the animals, he asked.

Asked about animal deaths, Martin

LABORATORY ANIMALS — FROM PAGE 3 —

clearly showed that the computer is merely a tool to aid in storing the data in readily-available form and in the solution of the mathematical equations which constitute the model. Before setting up these equations, there must be some hypothesis or theory to indicate which equations are appropriate for testing. This means that there usually must be some observed relationships *in vivo* (observations of life) sufficient to serve as the basis for the hypothesis. That usually means some preliminary, at least, observations of animals. Usually you don't just reach up and pull a hypothesis out of thin air.

When sufficient observations *in vivo* (the living body) are at hand with which to formulate a theory or hypothesis, sufficient specific quantitative data representing all available observations must be programmed into the computer. You can't get anything out of the computer, in the way of facts, that has not been put into it. The only additional data that can be obtained represent relationships among the data programmed into the computer. These relationships are represented by the mathematical equations which constitute the mathematical model. The computer can interpolate and extrapolate values of the variables, i.e., forecast what the variable *Y* most likely would be if the variables *X*, *Z*, etc., had certain values. This is merely a form of interpolation or extrapolation from the data originally programmed into the computer.

In biomedical research, all of the observations which must go into the computer necessarily are from either human or animal studies conducted beforehand.

After the computer does its work, the results may or may not be reliable, depending upon the sufficiency and accuracy of the original data, the appropriateness of the mathematical equations constituting the model, and the reasonableness of the interpolation or extrapolation which the computer is called upon to make. For example, if observations representing the effects of 3, 7, 10 and 13-gram doses are used, and the computer is asked to give

the probable effect of an 18-gram dose, the extrapolated figure may be far from the true one, since the relationship between the doses and effects may be curvilinear.

So, after the equations are solved and the results are at hand, a final step must be taken if anyone is to have confidence in the findings. They must be tested on humans or animals. Since people do not wish to be used as guinea pigs for such tests (although they sometimes are without knowing it), this means making tests in the laboratories with animals.

Dr. Newton, although a leader in this field who probably knows as much about the subject as anyone, repeatedly emphasized these points, which require no such emphasis for persons trained in the use of mathematical models. Other speakers did likewise. Perhaps, in view of some of the naive statements about "replacement" by mathematical models and computers that have appeared in the antivivisectionist and humane literature, this emphasis, which might appear to a knowledgeable participant in the symposium to be unnecessarily defensive, was justified.

Dr. Newton's paper showed that mathematical models and computers can contribute a great deal as part of a team approach to biomedical problem-solving. But it also should convince the reasonable humanitarian that these methods are far from being complete substitutes for animal models.

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF *IN VITRO* SYSTEMS

Dr. Tao-Chiuh Hsu, a professor in the Department of Biology, University of Texas, Houston, opened the discussion of the use of cell, tissue and organ cultures (*in vitro* systems, as opposed to the use of whole, live animals, which is termed *in vivo*) in biomedical research and testing. Dr. Mary Dawson, of the Department of Pharmaceutical Technology, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, dealt with the use of *in vitro* systems in basic biomedical research. Possibly she was invited to participate in the symposium, coming from such a great distance, because re-

searchers in Great Britain are believed by some humanitarians to be far advanced over American researchers in this field.

Dr. Sergey Fedoroff, head of the Department of Anatomy, University of Saskatchewan, Canada, was called on to discuss the use of *in vitro* systems in medical research.

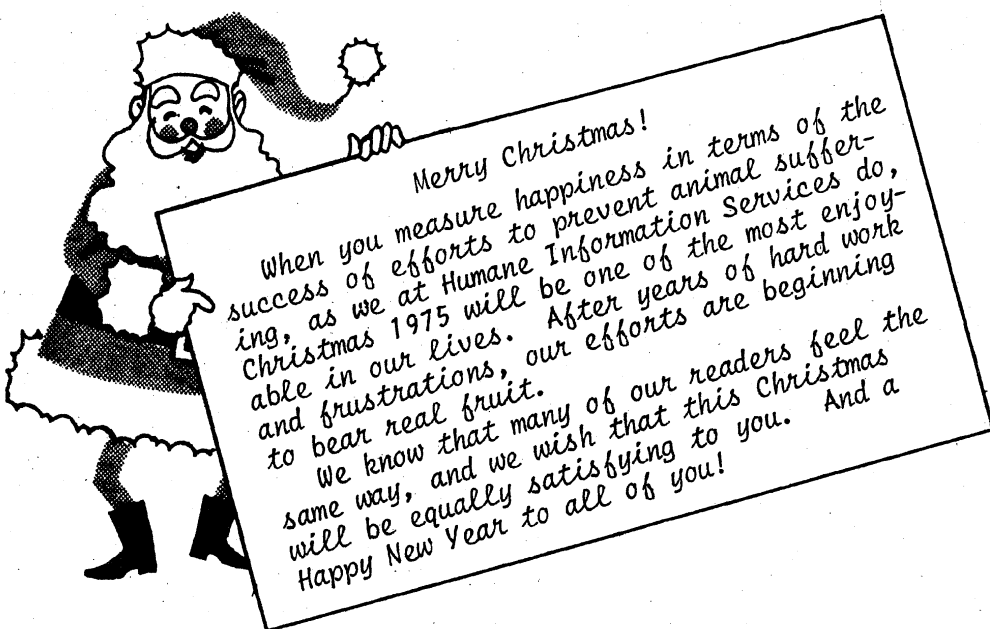
The last paper in this series dealt with the application of *in vitro* systems in dealing with public health problems (drug testing, etc.). It was given by Dr. John C. Petricciani, deputy director, Division of Pathology, Bureau of Biologics, Food and Drug Administration.

Dr. Ted A. Loomis, professor, Department of Pharmacology, State Toxicology Laboratory, University of Washington, at Seattle, gave "A Review of the Validity of Presently Accepted Scientific Standards."

Comments on these papers will be reserved until we have an opportunity to review them carefully.

A principal theme of all of these papers was that animals cannot be entirely replaced by other models in experimentation and testing. Yet, all of them described new techniques which have given results, supplementing or replacing the use of animals, which have added greatly to the effectiveness of biomedical experiments and tests, and provide a very hopeful view of the future.

Those humanitarians who unfairly judged the symposium *in advance*, claiming that it would consist of nothing but a justification of past methods, exhibited unwarranted prejudice. The symposium was not just a whitewash, but a real contribution to better understanding of the problems and possibilities of both "reduction" and "replacement." We need more, rather than fewer, of such events, but with more opportunity to present and discuss both sides of controversial issues. An attempt will be made to fill this gap in articles which will appear in future issues of *Report to Humanitarians*. This is not a subject which can be brought to a head on any one occasion or by any one organization. Time is required for the mutual education which must precede effective action.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR . . .

We reserve this issue for a few of the many nice letters received from members located in foreign countries.

"I personally receive your MOST informative newsletter with eager anticipation, and read every word immediately, and file them for future reference. I find your in-depth research very practical and down to earth. I have asked our offices to send you copies of our bimonthly Humane Viewpoint on a reciprocal basis."--Mrs. Stephanie Brown, President, The Toronto Humane Society, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

"Your point of view is easily understood and accepted. We are still very interested in receiving your reports, hoping to develop a steadily growing cooperation between the different animal protection societies throughout the world."--Georg Jacobsen, Chairman, Norges Dyrebeskyttelsesforbund, Oslo, Norway.

"For years I have read your Report and have been enlightened on so many subjects."--Mrs. Arnold H. Redman, Stowe Hill, Bermuda.

"I am particularly impressed by the careful evaluation of priorities in your paper; I wish we had something like it here!"--Mrs. Vole' Coaks, Honorable Secretary, Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals, Rye, Sussex, England.

"I believe so implicitly in your ideas, that I am using the reports like a Bible....I'm often asked for my opinion. so. with

RIPOFFS — FROM PAGE 8 —

evaluate what is most important, what really is wrong and what programs can most effectively overcome the obstacles to humane progress. In short, the societies tend to say and do what their uninformed members and contributors want them to say and do, rather than provide the leadership to channel humane funds and efforts where they will do the most good.

Even the sincere, dedicated organizations have been guilty of this dereliction. Perhaps it has been the only way they could survive financially. Some of the best friends of Humane Information Services have been telling us that if we expect to take in the money that will be necessary to fully implement our own constructive programs, we will have to do much more "following" than we have in the past.

COMING UP--A FOURTH ARTICLE!

And now, fellow humanitarians, we must break off this discussion at a critical point, because it is becoming too long for the attention span of the average reader, and we need the space for other articles found in this issue. We had intended making this a three-part series of articles, but must extend it to a fourth article, which will appear in an early issue. We know you will want to read it carefully. Please bear with us.

SLAUGHTER BILL NUMBER CHANGED

The National Association for Humane Legislation (NAHL) informs us that the humane slaughter bill described in the September issue of *Report to Humanitarians* has been revised, making it much stronger. The new bill is H.R. 9658, again introduced by Congressman George E. Brown, Jr., of California. Representative Brown recently circulated the new bill among other members of the House of Representatives, offering an opportunity to cosponsor. As we go to press, the names of these cosponsors and the number of the identical bill bearing their names are not yet available. NAHL informs us that full information about this revised bill, as well as about other humane legislation being considered by this Congress, will be contained in a *Humane Legislation Digest* to be mailed to its members, probably early in January (post office regulations prohibit sending third-class bulk mail in December because of the volume of Christmas mail).

AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT

In a recent issue we mentioned our great need for an unabridged dictionary. No sooner said than done! Ms. Nadine E. Hunter, of Gassville, Arkansas, sent us, mailing charges prepaid, just what we needed, thus saving a wad of money which we now can use for helping the animals in other ways. It makes a most appreciated Christmas present. Now, if one of our St.

HUMANE INFORMATION SERVICES FIGHTS TO OBTAIN ADOPTION OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS

Some of our readers seem to have the impression that Humane Information Services is a highly-specialized organization devoted only to research on humane problems and passing the information so obtained on to humanitarians through its *Report to Humanitarians* (or, as a few of them say to our intense irritation, "Your little paper"!).

Those functions are extremely important. Before Humane Information Services (HIS) came into existence, most policies and actions of humane societies and individual humanitarians were based upon personal, subjective opinions. And these opinions varied greatly, depending upon the personal backgrounds and practical experience in humane work of those who held them. Many of the actions taken were emotional reactions to a narrow field of observed conditions, rather than an objective analysis of all of the available facts pertinent to a problem.

THE HIT-OR-MISS APPROACH

Take, for example, euthanasia. Shelters and pounds put millions of animals "to sleep" by methods which managers had observed in use in a few shelters they had been able to visit, or based upon incorrect technical information vouchsafed by local veterinarians and others who never had made any study of the subject and were not familiar with the pros and cons of different methods and agents used for euthanasia. Such hit-or-miss choice and use of inappropriate methods has caused untold suffering by many millions of animals.

Likewise, if a local society was organized to build and operate a shelter, the shelter committee might employ an architect to draw the plans. The architect, in turn, would visit one or a few shelters in the same area, without realizing that they were out of date, inefficient, and resulted in diseased animals going out into the community, as well as unnecessary discomfort and stress for the animals.

SUBSTITUTING RESEARCH FOR GUESSWORK

The research and educational efforts of HIS have made it possible to substitute careful analyses of the experience of others for personal opinions and emotional reactions of inadequately-informed individuals. This has been true for all of the more important fields of humane work, not just shelter management.

An example is the article contained in this issue about rodeo, which gets down to the nub of that problem: Do we just want to continue beating our gums about rodeo cruelties, or really do something about this "sport"?

Only a beginning has been made, but the need for this "research and development" approach to humane problems, along the lines that have been used so successfully by business corporations for many years, has become evident to many in the humane movement.

So successful have been these efforts by HIS that other humane organizations are "getting into the act" by adopting, or planning, similar programs. "Research departments" and "information divisions" spring up suddenly in the descriptive brochures and house organs of other societies. One large national society has set up--on paper, anyway--a research and development "institute" designed to undertake such work. Other organizations have conducted research on euthanasia and other problems the study of which would have been unheard of only a few years ago.

Humane Information Services welcomes these incursions into the field which we started. We are not jealous of others who follow our lead, but consider their efforts to be an implied tribute to the success of our own research and development activities. We stand ready to cooperate with any other organizations, on the principle that frequently "two heads are better than one."

We do have two cautions to express, however: (1) Research which is designed to get at the truth is one thing, and "research" intended to furnish justification

often strident competition among humane societies may easily lead to the latter. HIS pledges to continue its policy of seeking the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, letting the chips fall where they may. (2) Research and program development should be a part of all the work of a society, not something to be set aside in a cloister and used or heeded only when it meets the preconceived notions of the "operating" departments or staff.

RESEARCH NOT EVERYTHING

But this emphasis on research and the development of more effective humane programs to be passed on to readers of *Report to Humanitarians* is not the sole function of Humane Information Services. We are engaged now, and will be to a much greater extent in the future, in many other humane activities.

You may have noticed recently the campaign by a major oil company to bring home to automobile owners the idea that it is not just engaged in the business of providing and selling gasoline, but operates "full service" stations offering a variety of products and services. During its early years, HIS may have been a "limited service" station in the humane field, but it now is branching out into the work of implementing its suggested programs. Although we cannot rightfully claim yet to be a "full service" national humane organization, we are rapidly becoming such because: (1) We realize that merely recommending new policies and procedures, based on our research, is not enough. Society jealousies being what they are, too few will heed the recommendations. We must actively work to secure their adoption. (2) There is such a demand from individual humanitarians for us to become more actively involved in the field that the need has become self-evident.

CAMPAIGNS TO IMPROVE EUTHANASIA

The case of the Florida county that continued to use the cruel drug succinylcholine chloride despite the efforts of local humanitarians to stop it by citing our reports, is a good example of this. Only when we sent a representative to present the case vigorously to the county commissioners was a change in policy achieved.

We do not pretend at present to have sufficient staff to carry out such activities in many places at once. That will come only when humanitarians really understand the unique but effective approach to humane problems which we are implementing, and give us more financial support. Meanwhile, except for the relatively few occasions that require our attendance at unusually important events, we must rely largely upon correspondence. But this can be very effective.

As evidence of this, we present the case of Gary, Indiana. A brief item in the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) *News* stated that one of the deficiencies of the Gary pound, found on a visit by Miss Phyllis Wright and John Inman of the HSUS staff was the use of succinylcholine chloride to kill the animals. To the protest by these HSUS staff members, the health commissioner said that no changes could be made, for budgetary reasons.

Following publication of the article on succinylcholine chloride in *Report to Humanitarians* No. 33, one of our members, Mrs. Marjorie King, of La Porte, Indiana, who is also a "national advisor" of the Animal Protection Institute of America, visited the health department and showed officials the article. She wrote us on October 7 as follows:

"I immediately (after reading *Report to Humanitarians* No. 33) called on the Gary Health Department officials, who are in charge of the pound operation, and they have agreed to discontinue the use of (succinylcholine chloride)."

Mrs. King sought our help in suggesting a substitute method of euthanasia for Gary, which we furnished in the form of a detailed letter which we attempted to tailor to the Gary conditions. Since then

furnish.

Another example of this approach is a letter just received from Mrs. Betty Jean Synan, president of Animal Protection and Welfare, Inc., of Quincy, Massachusetts. She says:

"Your excellent and informative article on the use of succinylcholine chloride... gave me the incentive to do some investigating in our area...I made several phone calls to area dog officers. Out of seven calls made, SEVEN DOG OFFICERS USED SUCOSTRIN (a brand of succinylcholine chloride). And all are under the impression it is humane...Needless to say, our organization is pursuing this matter further....What are we to suggest for an alternative method of euthanasia? We certainly do not want dog officers falling back on other inhumane methods and would welcome your suggestions."

If all of the societies and individual humanitarians on our mailing list were as alert as these two ladies to the need for carrying our recommendations into the field, we wouldn't need field representatives! But these letters show that it is not essential to have an elaborate staff in the field to accomplish a great deal.

Partly or wholly as a result of our research on the decompression chamber, and the articles giving the results of this research which have appeared in *Report to Humanitarians*, campaigns to eliminate the decompression chamber now are under way in over 20 communities. Some of these will require perhaps years of work before they are successful. But perseverance combined with accurate information can do much to wear away the opposition.

PLANS FOR MORE INDIVIDUALIZED HELP

Since Humane Information Services does not now have funds to employ a good field representative who could visit all points where such campaigns are under way to give personal assistance, we do the next best thing: offer a program of help by mail that is tailored to fit the local circumstances. Such mailings can be of three kinds: (1) detailed letters to those who write for help; (2) letters from us to officials designated by our correspondents, trying to convince them of the value of our recommendations; (3) multiple mailings to people on our mailing list in the communities, or to local mailing lists furnished by the correspondent, explaining the circumstances and the action by them that is suggested.

We believe that a program of this kind may be able to accomplish nearly as much, in some cases even more, than a single visit by a field representative to the community where the problem exists.

But even this approach calls for more funds than we now have available from membership dues and contributions. It requires much more time, and costs much more than some of our members realize to dictate, type and mail long letters of the kind required for the success of such a program. HIS is badly in need of funds with which to employ a typist for this purpose. Won't you help with an extra donation this Christmas?

PLEASE FORGIVE DELAYS

Meanwhile, Emily must type such letters, when she can find the time from her already-too-heavy load of office work. So, some of your letters requiring a great deal of thought, perhaps some individualized research, and a long, detailed reply, reside in Doc's unanswered mailbox much too long--we would hate to tell you how long some of them have been there!

Please forgive us for these delays. If a prompt reply is necessary in order to meet some deadline, we try to furnish it, but sometimes even then we are so hung up with other emergency work (such as a printer's deadline of our own!) that we cannot answer promptly.

Usually, however, the use to which the information or suggestions will be put has no particular deadline, and the delay will do no real damage except possibly to irritate you a little. If you want to cuss us out, go ahead; but never, never think we are indifferent to your letters. They are

Some Ripoffs in the Humane Movement?

Third article in a series

In two previous articles in *Report to Humanitarians* we have dealt with some of the factors that must be considered in deciding whether or not some particular humane society is what is popularly called a "ripoff." We discussed salaries, advertising, publications and other factors having a bearing on this question. Most of these furnish an inconclusive basis for reaching a decision, because some of them are characteristic of both good and bad societies. There are few humane societies which on the basis of these factors alone could be designated as "ripoffs." It is the combination of circumstances that must govern the evaluation.

OBVIOUS RIPOFFS

The organizations which most obviously deserve the designation "ripoff" are well known to the managements of other societies. For example, an official of one national society which is sincerely working for the benefit of animals described to this writer his conception of the division of the cash receipts of another organization which takes in well over a half million dollars annually: about one-third goes to advertising and other fund-raising activities, one-third to pay general administrative expenses, and one-third to the founder and chief officer in the form of salary, expense accounts, and other remuneration.

Another national humane society (we might call it international were it not for the danger of confusing it in the minds of some readers with the several legitimate international societies) received its start from a lot of publicity it received in connection with a sea mammal problem. According to a newspaper article, the founder parlayed this publicity into a very remunerative operation.

THE DO-NOTHING SOCIETY

One of our members did some research and wrote a very factual description of another society, and suggested that we help to "expose" it. According to her evidence, this society takes in a lot of money, and has a very large endowment. Yet it frequently runs advertisements asking for more funds. The well-to-do lady members of the board of directors are said to arrive at meetings wearing fur coats, perfunctorily vote to approve the president's and treasurer's reports, and spend most of their time engaging in small talk and gossip. The well-paid chief officer is said to spend most of his time at home or conducting his private business. The staff consists of several clerks to open mail, record membership dues and contributions, send receipts and publications, and do typing. The only staff member engaged in anything remotely resembling animal welfare activity, it is claimed, can do little except edit the handsome, slick-paper magazine the society publishes, which contains nothing we can conceive to be significant.

We have carefully hedged these descriptions to make it impossible for our readers to identify the societies, so please don't try. These articles are not for the purpose of hurting any other society, good or bad, but to lay the foundation for our final article, which will appear in an early issue, and which will, we hope, be of great potential good to the humane movement.

SMALL GENERAL-PURPOSE SOCIETIES

Other candidates for the ripoff designation are some of the numerous small local or regional societies that are operated by very sincere animal lovers with little help from others, with extremely small budgets, and frequently with some fixation on a single kind of humane problem or particular species of animal. They do not operate animal shelters, and their main function seems to be to issue poorly-constructed and written mimeographed newsletters, which go to a very limited number of people. The principal theme of these

highly graphic and extreme terms, about some particular animal abuse. But carefully-planned and potentially-effective programs for dealing with the problems described generally are absent. These societies all too frequently seem to be mainly for the purpose of blowing off steam. Their founders enjoy the opportunity to vent their spleen against some particular group of animal exploiters. Nothing is accomplished, except to meet the need that many animal lovers seem to have for "striking back" at those who are indifferent to animal suffering.

But a few of these small societies are doing effective work with the meager funds at their disposal, and Humane Information Services never forgets that it, too, started life as a very small society. Again, any intelligent evaluation of such societies must be based upon appraisal of numerous factors as they are encountered in a particular combination representing a specific society.

THE PERSONALITY-ORIENTED SOCIETY

Still other candidates for the ripoff honor, in the opinion of some humanitarians, are the societies headed by prominent personalities who are able to obtain a lot of free publicity by appearing on TV talk shows, holding widely-publicized fund-raising affairs, and being interviewed by reporters. Several organizations run by movie and TV stars fall in this category. They have a wonderful opportunity to use these connections for the purpose of obtaining better public understanding of conditions affecting animals and what should be done to deal with them, as well as money with which to fund effective action programs. Unfortunately, some of these highly-publicized humanitarians apparently have neither the personal inclination nor time for the intensive study which is required for deciding what is most needed and potentially effective. Disposition of the funds received sometimes seems based on superficial knowledge and spur-of-the-moment decisions. But they do some good by reaching a wide audience denied to societies that perhaps have more effective programs.

LOCAL SOCIETY RIPOFFS

Other candidates for the ripoff label are numerous local societies which operate animal shelters in various ineffective ways that have been analyzed in many past issues of this *Report*. These include:

(1) The "save-a-life" societies. These small shelters take on and keep indefinitely as many dogs and cats as their capacity permits, thereafter being able to accept only replacements for the comparatively small number which they are able to adopt out. Some of these have been able to build such an unwarranted reputation among dog and cat lovers as to bring in large sums annually, and some have endowments running into high figures. Others struggle along mainly using the operators' meager personal income. None of them is dealing with the pet overpopulation effectively, and as a whole they represent a waste of humane funds that should be going into some constructive and effective programs.

This general category of local societies may be designated as "pet adoption centers." They may destroy some of the animals received, but their main function is to try to find homes for unwanted animals brought to them.

(2) Some big-city societies that in effect are municipal or county dog catchers and pound operators, obtaining a substantial portion of their operating revenue from local governments, yet also using large amounts contributed by unsophisticated animal lovers who know nothing about the actual operations of these shelters or what they should be but are not doing.

Here we find the unspayed female and unneutered male dogs and cats going out into homes which shortly will be bringing back to the shelter the progeny of those adoptions. We find the undesirable meth-

should be conducted. The whole purpose of many of these local societies seems to be keeping up the flow of funds from both local governments and misguided animal lovers, to avoid rocking the boat or antagonizing any influential or contributing element in the community, and to avoid any controversy.

Naturally, few of these societies feel kindly to Humane Information Services, which points out discrepancies and conditions which need to be corrected. They support, and are publicly supported by, some national and state humane organizations which defend them against any criticism and give them help in continuing to operate in the same old rut.

THE REAL RIPOFF

Although many of the humane societies that have been described border on the ripoff category, only a few are outright frauds set up solely or mostly for the benefit of their founders and officers.

Yet, no objective analysis of humane problems and attempts to deal with them could come up with any conclusion other than this: almost the whole humane movement is, in an important sense, a ripoff.

Now, we know that we will receive quite a few letters criticizing us for making that statement. These letters will claim that expressing such a pessimistic conclusion, even publishing the analysis of more specific situations which have been discussed in previous sections of these articles, may cause some confused animal lovers to withhold contributions from any society, because they do not know enough about the situation to discriminate. They will point out that even Humane Information Services, which strongly believes that it is not a ripoff, may be affected. Cast doubt on some, or most, of the humane movement, they will say, and you cast doubt on all.

Please believe us when we say that this possibility has been soberly, honestly and carefully considered. But if our conclusion is correct, what difference will it make? To diminish the flow of funds which largely go down a rat hole will not hurt the animals much. And our *Report to Humanitarians* does not go to any large proportion of the contributors. We reach mostly the really dedicated, intelligent, working segment of the humane movement, not the big-money contributors. Our financial difficulties are evidence enough of that!

We believe that the amount of good that can be done by such a frank and honest approach is far greater than the harm that might come from casting some doubts about humane giving in the minds of those who don't want to face the facts and do something to change the situation. Only by casting such doubts can we hope to make the conclusion itself obsolete.

LACK OF LEADERSHIP IS THE PROBLEM

What justification do we have for saying that the whole humane movement is a ripoff? Briefly, after over a hundred years of organized humane activities the amount of cruelty and suffering has increased for practically every important category of animals. Granted, this reflects partly the increase in population and national income; but if the humane movement were making real progress, this would have been offset by increased humane awareness on the part of the general public. Affluence should carry with it the ability to be more humane. The pioneer was forced to be harsh in dealing with animals, just as the elements were harsh in dealing with him.

Why have humane societies failed to meet this challenge? Why have conditions affecting animal welfare become worse rather than better?

The answer, we believe, is that those who control the humane societies have failed to provide the leadership required to meet these problems. The "leaders" have been "followers," moving in response to the winds of reaction from members and contributors who are not in a position to